

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 10.

THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

THE GREAT BATTLE.

MR. STANTON'S DISPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, May 8—5 P. M.—Major General John A. Dix, New York: We are yet without any official dispatches from the Army of the Potomac, except those referred to this morning from the Medical Director and Chief Quartermaster, and nothing additional has been received by the Department from any other source.

A part of the wounded arrived in ambulances this morning at Rappahannock Station, and are on their way by railroad. The Department will probably receive dispatches by that train, which will arrive here to-night.

A dispatch from Gen. Butler just received, and which left him yesterday, states that a diversion has been made by his forces on the railroad between Petersburg and Richmond, and had succeeded in destroying a portion of it so as to break that connection. That there had been some severe fighting, but he had succeeded. He heard from a Rebel deserter that Gen. Hunter was dangerously wounded. Pickett also. Jones and Jenkins were killed.

Nothing later has been heard from Sherman.
[Signed] EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, May 9, 10 45 A. M.—To Major Gen. Dix: We have intelligence this morning, by scouts direct from the army, as late as Saturday evening, but no official reports. The general results may be stated as a success to our arms.

The fighting on Friday was the most desperate known in modern times. I deeply regret to say that the country will have to mourn the death of that accomplished soldier, Brigadier General Wadsworth, who was struck in the forehead by a ball, at the head of his command while leading them against one of the enemy's strongest positions. His remains are in our hands, in charge of Col. Sharpe. Gen. Webb was wounded. General Jones, of the Rebel army, was killed.

The condition of our army is represented to be most admirable. Their cool, determined courage has in every instance proved too much for the desperate fury of the Rebels, who have been driven at all points. There has been no straggling. At the latest accounts Hancock was pushing forward rapidly by the Spottsylvania Court House, and yesterday heavy cannonading was heard at Aquia Creek from that direction until 3 o'clock.

WASHINGTON, May 9, 11.30 A. M.—To Major General Dix: This Department has just received from General Butler the official report of General Lee of the operations on Friday. He says their loss in killed is not large, but they had many wounded.

He grieves to announce that General Longstreet was severely wounded, General Jenkins killed, and General Pegram badly wounded, on Thursday, and that it is supposed General Stafford will recover.

He thanks a merciful God that every advance on General Grant's part has been repulsed.—He states that our forces attacked them and caused some confusion.

General Wadsworth's body fell into their hands, but our report this morning states that it is now in our possession, under charge of Colonel Sharpe, as stated in my dispatch this morning. The belief here is that Lieut. General Grant is achieving a complete victory.

We have lost some prisoners. One regiment, the 9th Pennsylvania Reserves, charged through an abatis of the enemy, but were unable to get back, and the most of them were captured. We have also taken a large number of prisoners, supposed to be more than we lost.

The wounded had not yet arrived at the point where trains were to receive them. The

Medical Director reports that a large proportion are slight wounds. Artillery was not used on either side the first two days.

There is nothing later from General Butler than the dates of my last dispatch.

General Sherman was heard from last night. He had been all day reconnoitering the enemy's position, and would attack him to-day.

[Signed] EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, May 9—4 o'clock P. M.—To Major General Dix, New York: Dispatches have just reached here, direct from General Grant. They are not fully deciphered yet, but he is on to Richmond. We have taken 2,000 prisoners. A bearer of dispatches from Gen. Meade's headquarters has just reached here.—He states that Lee's army commenced falling back on the night of Friday. Our army commenced the pursuit on Saturday.

The Rebels were in full retreat for Richmond by the direct road. Hancock passed through Spottsylvania Court House at daylight. Our headquarters at noon yesterday were twenty miles south of the battle-field. We occupy Fredericksburg. The 22d New York cavalry occupied that place at 8 o'clock last night.—The depot for our wounded is established at Fredericksburg.

[Signed] E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The Washington Chronicle of this morning says that "Hancock with the 2d corps, passed through Spottsylvania Court House on Sunday morning at daylight."

The following note was read in the Senate of the United States yesterday.

I have heard from Generals Grant and Meade. They are on to Richmond. Lee is in full retreat, and Hancock, Sedgwick, Warren, and Burnside are close on his heels.

E. M. STANTON Secretary of War.

From the Northern papers and their correspondents we extract the following: One writer says:

"The fighting on Thursday and Friday was very severe, with skirmishing only on Saturday. Lee's first onset was made upon the left, but failing he then fell upon the centre and finally upon the right, where the hardest contest took place. Here the Confederates charged upon the Federal lines twice, but were repulsed each time. Hancock's corps charged back twice, and at one time entered that portion of the Confederate entrenchments commanded by A. P. Hill, but was compelled to fall back. Seymour's division of Hancock's corps was badly cut up. Generals Wadsworth and Bartlett were badly wounded, the former having been knocked off his horse by a spent minnie ball. The number of Federal wounded is reported at about ten thousand; the killed at two thousand." Another correspondent of a New York paper writes: "Friday closed upon a terribly hard fought field. Lee's tactics of throwing his whole army first upon one wing and then upon another have again been brought to bear, but the Army of the Potomac has repulsed the tremendous onslaught. The first attempt was made upon Hancock's 2d corps, which stood its ground. Then the Confederates hurled their battalions upon Sedgwick's, and once or twice gained a temporary advantage, but the veterans rallied, and the Confederates were repulsed.

About half past four o'clock, P. M., Lee made a feint attack upon the whole line, and then suddenly fell with his whole force upon Sedgwick, driving him back temporarily, but the advantage gained was soon regained, and the Confederates were again hurled back.

Night now came on, and it was believed at headquarters that Lee had withdrawn from the front. The nature of the ground had been of a terrible character, most of it so thickly wooded as to render movements all but impossible, and to conceal entirely the operations of the Confederates.

The loss on both sides is very heavy."

Another letter, dated Wilderness, Friday P. M. says: "The most terrific battle yet

fought closed to day. Lee's entire army has made repeated and furious assaults, upon the right and left wings, commanded by Hancock and Sedgwick, with temporary successes, but has been driven back with great slaughter.

An attack was made about four o'clock this afternoon simultaneously upon the whole line, which was repulsed. Towards dark the Confederates concentrated upon the Federal right and fell suddenly upon Sedgwick, crushing a portion of his line, but Sedgwick succeeded in reforming his line, and secured it against further disaster, and the Confederates withdrew from his front.

Our losses have been heavy, but our army to-day has certainly achieved a decided success. It has baffled all the offensive efforts of the Confederates.

The almost impenetrable woods with which the battle ground is covered enabled the Confederates to conceal their movements almost perfectly until the very moment of their execution."

An "eye witness" in a New York paper writes as follows: "On Thursday the army sustained successfully the fierce attack of the bulk of Lee's army. On Friday we attacked and drove them some distance, and took all their wounded prisoners, and won a decisive victory. On Saturday there was no fighting, and Lee was believed to be retreating."

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, Saturday Evening.—At noon to-day our skirmishers advanced through the woods, and found that Lee had retreated. Gen. Grant pushed out a strong picket force on the avenues leading westward, and resumed his original plan of the campaign. Hancock's corps is now at Spottsylvania Court House.

The whole army is now moving forward, and we may not hear from it again for a week.

The medical director of the army estimates our loss at near 10,000 as follows: twelve to fifteen hundred killed and eight thousand wounded.

General Grant has taken up the bridges in his rear. The Seventh Pennsylvania Reserves charged through a dense thicket, and being unable to get back, all but sixty were taken prisoners.

Gen. Wadsworth, of New York, was killed by being shot through the head whilst leading his division through a terrific musketry fire.

All communication by railroad with Grant's Army has been cut off, and it is reported that the track of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, above Bealton Station has been torn up by the Confederates. The trains that went up on Sunday to bring down the wounded, returned yesterday, and Maj. Gen. Crittenden and Brig. Gen. Leadley and staffs came back on one of the trains, having been unable to reach the Army of the Potomac by that route. The wounded of the Army of the Potomac are to be taken to Aquia Creek. A portion of the Federal Army occupied Fredericksburg on Sunday night. Yesterday evening, about two hundred Federal wounded reached Washington from Aquia Creek. The wounds are all of a comparatively slight character, as the serious cases were not sent up, owing to the difficulty of travelling.

A large number of the wounded are expected to reach this place and Washington to-day and to-morrow. The following dispatch from Gen. Meade is published this morning:

HQ'S. ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
May 8, 1864.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, Washington: I have ordered the establishment of a hospital at Fredericksburg for the wounded of this army, estimated at twelve thousand. I desire that medical officers, ambulances, and supplies may be sent there at once, as requested by the medical director in a dispatch to the Surgeon General.

GEO. G. MEADE.

Major General Commanding.

By S. WILLIAMS, Ass't Adj't General.